

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☒ no ☐

Property Name: Stick and Ball House Inventory Number: D-178
Address: 1910 Church Creek Road (MD 16) Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no
City: Church Creek Zip Code: 21622 County: Dorchester
USGS Quadrangle(s): Church Creek
Property Owner: Gerald J. and Joan B. Grindle Tax Account ID Number: 196803
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 173 Tax Map Number: 051
Project: MD 16: Brannocks Neck Road to South of MD 335 -- Church Agency: MD SHA
Agency Prepared By: A&HC for MD SHA
Preparer's Name: Wendy Zug-Gilbert Date Prepared: 09/20/2002
Documentation is presented in: Project Review and Compliance Files
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☒ Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes Listed: ☐ yes
Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The Stick and Ball House is a Folk Victorian structure that features distinctive gingerbread on its front porch and end gables. The structure consists a two-and-a-half-story main block with a two-story rear kitchen ell. Both the main block and the rear wing are clad in vinyl siding, have asphalt-shingle roofs, and original window sash (four-over-four in the main block; six-over-six in the wing). The main block has a three-bay façade that is dominated by a highly ornate porch featuring the stick and ball design. Italianate-inspired arched windows on the central bay of the façade's second story and in the gable ends further demonstrate the Victorian detailing. The dwelling is one of the most decorative structures in Church Creek, especially when compared to others in the borough such as the starkly simple late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century Cape Cods and the modest twentieth-century bungalows and ranchers. This resource is located within the Church Creek Survey District (D-654), which is recommended not eligible for the National Register.

The Stick and Ball House is recommended eligible under National Register Criterion C for its architectural uniqueness and integrity. Built for Captain Josephus Brannock circa 1875, the Stick and Ball House is an excellent example of a simple Folk Victorian structure with elaborate detailing. The house is a good example of the type of residential structure that was built for a successful captain in a rural shipbuilding and shipping community. The dwelling is much larger and more elaborate than those

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments:

John J. Anne
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

6/27/06
Date

Blanton
Reviewer, National Register Program

6/29/06
Date

200601345

occupied by sailors and other types of watermen of the same period. The ornate stick and ball detailing on the house's front porch is unusual particularly in the rural regions of Dorchester County. It is evidence of Brannock's financial success and his visual demonstration of it. The detailing has given the dwelling its common name and makes it an easily recognizable component of the Church Creek streetscape.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___A ___B ___C ___D Considerations: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services_____
Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date

**DORCHESTER COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET**

SURVEY NO.: D-178

NAME: Stick and Ball House

LOCATION: 1910 Church Creek Road (MD 16), east of intersection with MD 335

DATE: circa 1875

ACCESS: Private

DESCRIPTION:

The Stick and Ball House occupies a half-acre lot on the north side of MD 16 within Church Creek Borough. Built for Captain Josephus Brannock circa 1875, it is located within a short row of two-story dwellings that all date to the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Unlike the other dwellings along this section of highway, the Stick and Ball House is a Folk Victorian-style structure that features distinctive gingerbread on its front porch and end gables. The structure consists a two-and-a-half-story main block with a two-story rear kitchen ell. Both the main block and the rear wing are clad in vinyl siding, have asphalt-shingle roofs, and original window sash (four-over-four in main block; six-over-six in wing). The main block has a three-bay façade that is dominated by a highly ornate porch featuring the stick and ball design. Italianate-inspired arched windows on the central bay of the façade's second story and in the gable ends further demonstrate the Victorian detailing. The dwelling is one of the most decorative structures in Church Creek. Its ornamentation seems even more spectacular when compared to other dwellings in the borough such as the starkly simple late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century Cape Cods and the modest twentieth-century bungalows and ranchers. Also present on the property are a nineteenth-century smokehouse and a modern garage.

The Stick and Ball House is located within the Church Creek Survey District (D-654), which is recommended not eligible for the National Register.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Stick and Ball House is recommended eligible under National Register Criterion C for its architectural uniqueness and integrity. Built for Captain Josephus Brannock circa 1875, the Stick and Ball House is an excellent example of a simple Folk Victorian-style structure with elaborate detailing. The house is a good example of the type of residential structure that was built for a successful captain in a rural shipbuilding and shipping community. The dwelling is much larger and more elaborate than those occupied by sailors and other types of watermen of the same period. The ornate stick and ball detailing on the house's front porch is unusual, particularly in the rural regions of Dorchester County. It is evidence of Brannock's financial success and his visual demonstration of it. The detailing has given the dwelling its common name and makes it an easily recognizable component of the Church Creek streetscape.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No.

D-178

1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic Capt. Josephus Brannock House

other Stick and Ball House (preferred)

2. Location

street and number 1910 Church Creek Road (MD 16) not for publication

city, town Church Creek vicinity

county Dorchester

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Gerald J. & Joan B. Grindle

street and number 1910 Church Creek Road, PO Box 62 telephone n/a

city, town Church Creek state MD zip code 21622

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Courthouse liber PLC 137 folio 46

city, town Cambridge tax map 051 tax parcel 173 tax ID number 09-196803

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	2
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	1
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	buildings
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	sites
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			2

7. Description

Inventory No.

D-178

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Stick and Ball House is located on the north side of MD 16 at 1910 Church Creek Road.¹ The house occupies a half-acre lot within the Church Creek Borough. The parcel is located just east of the MD 16-MD 335 intersection within a short row of two-story dwellings that all date to the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Like the other dwelling along this section of highway, the house sits approximately 25 feet from the edge of the road. Distinctive Victorian gingerbread distinguishes it from the other dwellings within the borough. The property includes the house, a nineteenth-century smokehouse, and a modern garage.

The Stick and Ball House is a Folk Victorian-style structure consisting of a basic National-style form with Victorian ornamental woodwork. It is composed of a two-and-a-half-story, three-bay main block with a two-story rear kitchen ell. Built circa 1875, by Captain Josephus Brannock, the dwelling is one of the most decorative structures in Church Creek. Its ornamentation seems even more spectacular when compared to other dwellings in the borough such as the starkly simple late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century Cape Cods and the modest twentieth-century bungalows and ranchers.

The main block has a long narrow form that is punctuated by a central cross gable on the façade. The structure sits on a brick foundation and is clad in white vinyl siding, which mimics the appearance of weatherboard. Its 45-foot façade is dominated by an unusually decorative screened porch. Turned porch posts support balustrade and spandrel spindlework featuring the highly ornamental stick and ball design. Additional gingerbread is evident in the façade's central cross gable and in the end gables. The roof is covered with composition asphalt shingles. The front entrance features paired doors. Windows feature an unusual four-over-four sash design and are larger on the first story than the second. Each window has original wooden shutters except the two first-story façade windows. Italianate-inspired arched windows further demonstrate the Victorian detailing. Arched windows are located at the façade's second-story central bay (with accompanying arched shutters) and at the end gables.

The rear kitchen wing is a two-story frame structure that sits off-center on the main block's back wall. Like the main block the wing is clad in white vinyl siding and has a composition asphalt-shingle roof. However, the wing lacks any of the main block's Victorian gingerbread. Additions are located on all free-standing elevations and include a two-story shed-roof addition on the eastern wall, a one-story screened porch on the western wall, and a modern one-story addition off the rear. Windows in the wing are smaller in size and have six-over-six sash.

The two additional buildings on the property include a smokehouse and a garage. The small smokehouse is a frame, front-gabled structure with a brick chimney. It likely dates to the period of the dwelling and contributes to the resource. The modern garage is located at the rear of the property and does not contribute to the resource.

¹ The Stick and Ball House is located within the Church Creek Survey District (D-654), which has been recommended not eligible for the National Register.

8. Significance

Inventory No.

D-178

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates circa 1875

Evaluation for:

☒ National Register

☒ Maryland Register

☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Significance

The Stick and Ball House is recommended eligible under National Register Criterion C for its architectural uniqueness and integrity. Built for Captain Josephus Brannock circa 1875, the Stick and Ball House is an excellent example of a simple Folk Victorian-style structure with elaborate detailing. The house is a good example of the type of residential structure that was built for a successful captain in a rural shipbuilding and shipping community. The dwelling is much larger and more elaborate than those occupied by sailors and other types of watermen of the same period. The ornate stick and ball detailing on the house's front porch is unusual, particularly in the rural regions of Dorchester County. It is evidence of Brannock's financial success and his visual demonstration of it. The detailing has given the dwelling its common name and makes it an easily recognizable component of the Church Creek streetscape.

Historic Narrative

The Stick and Ball House was constructed circa 1875 for Captain Josephus Brannock. Brannock was a ship captain, likely operating from the steamboat wharf located at the west end of town along Church Creek. It is conceivable the Brannock was a man of some importance given the size and flamboyance of his residence. Other watermen of the period typically lived in small Cape Cod dwellings that were 50 to 100 years old by the end of the nineteenth century.

The town of Church Creek has had a long history with the shipping industry. The area was settled in the early part of the eighteenth century by men who made a living from the sea. The town developed because of its proximity to Old Trinity, one of the earliest churches in America, and its location along Church Creek, a navigable stream that eventually flows into the Choptank River and the Chesapeake Bay. Local forests of oak and pine provided ample wood for a successful shipbuilding industry to flourish. The town of Church Creek developed during the eighteenth century attracting shipbuilders, carpenters, painters, and lumbermen. These occupations dominated the workforce throughout the nineteenth century as well.

By the last quarter of the nineteenth century, Church Creek was a thriving sea-related community. In 1880, the town consisted of 73 households, 54 of which were Caucasian and 19 of which were African-American (US Federal Census Records 1880). The two racial groups lived interspersed within the community. Sea-based and shipbuilding occupations made up a large percentage of the workforce accounting for just less than half of the jobs within the community (US Federal Census Records 1880). Occupations associated with these industries included sailor, steam clerk, oyster planter, carpenter, painter, saw miller, and lumber dealer.

In 1875, Captain Josephus Brannock purchased a lot of slightly less than an acre from William A. and Nancy Bailey (Dorchester County Deed FJH10:274). Upon it he built the highly decorative Stick and Ball House. The dwelling was a status symbol of his financial success, its size and adornment appropriate for someone of his stature. Capt. J. Brannock is shown as the owner and occupant of the property on Lake, Griffing & Stevenson's 1877 map. However, only five years after its construction Brannock sold the property, likely receiving a commission elsewhere (Dorchester County Deed DL2:222). The property was sold to William

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-178

Stick and Ball House

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Historic Narrative (continued)

A. Brannock, the grandfather of the current owner (Grindle 2002). It is not known what the relationship was between the two Brannocks, but it was not father-son since according to 1880 census records the young Captain Brannock was not old enough to have had an adult son.

The property was passed through the William Brannock family into the mid-twentieth century. When William died he left his estate to his heirs: William B. Hill, Blanche Jones, Addie Brannock, and Vivian Brannock. In 1955, the Brannock heirs sold the property out of the family (Dorchester County Deed RSM94:121). In 1964, the property was received back into the Brannock family when William's granddaughter and her husband purchased the dwelling (Dorchester County Deed PLC137:46; conversation with Joan Grindle). The current owners are responsible for covering the structure in vinyl siding, building the modern garage, and surrounding a portion of the property with wooden fencing. The owners are also responsible for maintaining the beautiful Victorian detailing. A survey of the Church Creek area in 1975 identified this structure as an important component of the community and worthy of individual mention (Bourne 1975).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No.

D-178

1. Bourne, Michael
1975 Maryland Historical Trust Worksheet for Church Creek (D-654). On file at MHT, Crownsville, MD.
2. Conversation with Joan B. Grindle, property owner, on August 21, 2002.
3. Dorchester County Deed and Tax Assessment Records, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, MD.
4. Lake, Griffing & Stevenson (publishers)
1877 *An Illustrated Atlas of Talbot and Dorchester Counties, Maryland*. Philadelphia, PA.
5. US Census Records for Dorchester County, Church Creek, 1880. Census transcribed by Debra Smith Moxey, March 1994.
On file at the Dorchester County Public Library, Cambridge, MD.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 0.47 acre
Acreage of historical setting 7/8 acre
Quadrangle name Church Creek, MD (1982)

Quadrangle scale: 1:20,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The recommended boundary for the Stick and Ball House (Dorchester County Tax Map 51; Parcel 173 – Church Creek) encompasses a rectangular lot measuring 63' x 325', and is described as follows: Beginning at a point on the north side of MD 16 (which is the SW corner of the described parcel); then northeast along the side of said road for 63 to a point (SE corner); then leaving the road northwest for 19.75 perches to a point (NE corner); then southwest for 63 feet to a point (NW corner); then southeast for 19.65 perches (SW corner), which is the point of beginning. Containing 0.47 acres.

The boundary was drawn to encompass the entirety of Tax Parcel 173, which is the current extent of the property.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Wendy Zug-Gilbert		
organization	Archaeological and Historical Consultants, Inc.	date	September 2002
street & number	101 N. Pennsylvania Ave., PO Box 284	telephone	(814) 364-2135
city or town	Centre Hall	state	PA

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

PRESERVATION VISION 2000: THE MARYLAND PLAN
STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXTS

I. GEOGRAPHIC REGION:

- X EASTERN SHORE (ALL EASTERN SHORE COUNTIES AND CECIL)
WESTERN SHORE (ANNE ARUNDEL, CALVERT, CHARLES, PRINCE GEORGE'S, ST. MARY'S)
PIEDMONT (BALTIMORE CITY, BALTIMORE, CARROLL, FREDERICK, HARFORD,, HOWARD,
MONTGOMERY)
WESTERN MARYLAND (ALLEGANY, GARRETT, WASHINGTON)

II. CHRONOLOGICAL/DEVELOPMENTAL PERIODS:

- RURAL AGRARIAN INTENSIFICATION (A.D. 1680-1815)
AGRICULTURAL-INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION (A.D. 1815-1870)
X INDUSTRIAL/URBAN DOMINANCE (A.D. 1870-1930)
MODERN PERIOD (A.D. 1930-PRESENT)
UNKNOWN PERIOD (PREHISTORIC; HISTORIC)

III. HISTORIC PERIOD THEMES:

- AGRICULTURE
X ARCHITECTURE, LANDSCAPE, ARCHITECTURE, AND COMMUNITY PLANNING
ECONOMIC (COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL)
GOVERNMENT/LAW
MILITARY
RELIGION
X SOCIAL/EDUCATIONAL/CULTURAL
TRANSPORTATION

IV. RESOURCE TYPE:

CATEGORY: residential
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT: rural
HISTORIC FUNCTION(S) AND USE(S): dwelling
KNOWN DESIGN SOURCE: none

D-178

STICK AND BALL HOUSE

1910 CHURCH CREEK ROAD

CHURCH CREEK, DORCHESTER COUNTY

NR BOUNDARY MAP

Church Creek Survey District Boundary

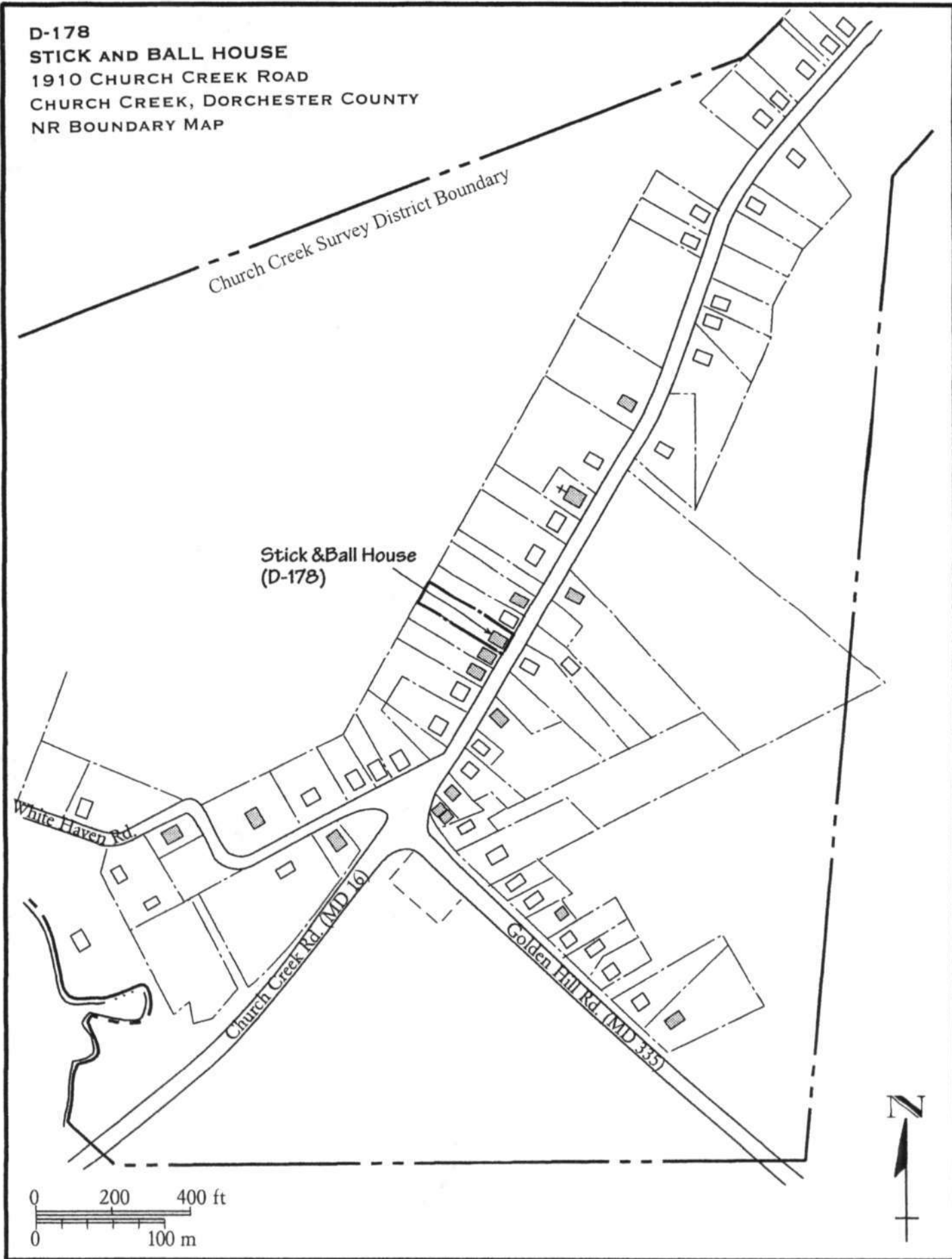
Stick & Ball House
(D-178)

White Haven Rd.

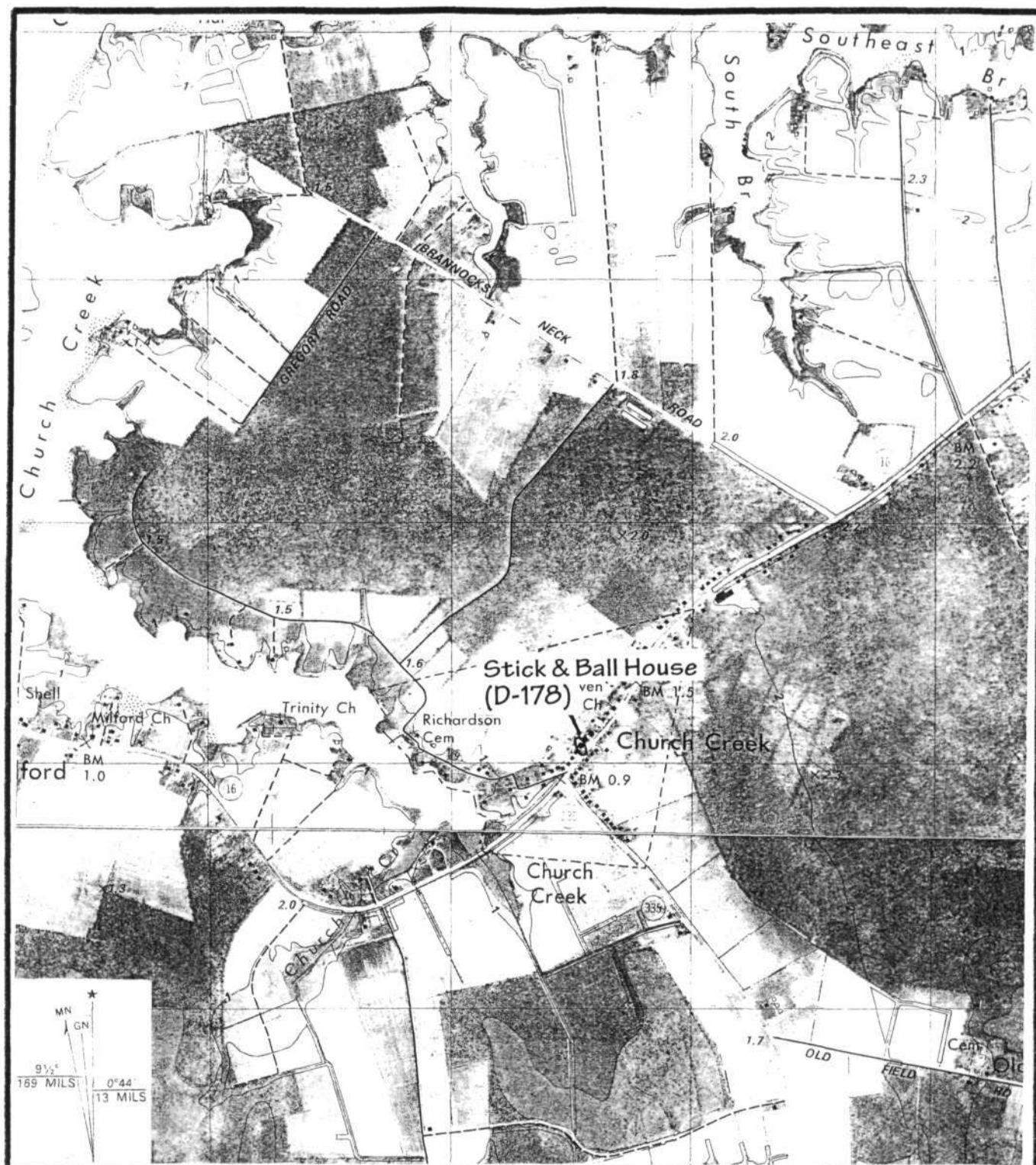
Church Creek Rd. (MD 16)

Golden Hill Rd. (MD 335)

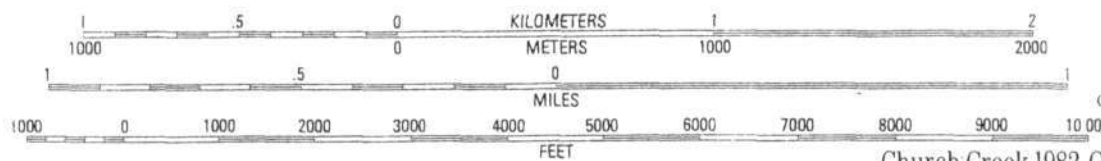
0 200 400 ft
0 100 m



D-178



CONTOUR INTERVAL 1 METER SCALE 1:24 000



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Church Creek 1982, Golden Hill 1981, MD



D-113

Stick and Ball House

Dorchester Co, MD

Rita Suffness

June 1997

Maryland Shro

facade, facing NW

1 + 4



D 178

Stick and Ball House

Dorchester Co, MD

Wendy Ay-Exort

Sept 2002

Maryland Shro

facade + NE gable end, facing W
smokehouse in rear yard

2 of 4



D-176

Stick and Fall House.

Dorchester Co, MD

Wendy Eng-Gibson

Sept 2002

Maryland State

SW gable end facing N

3 of 4



D-178

Stuck and Bull Horse
Dorchester Co, MD

Windy Aug - Gilbert
Sept 2002
Maryland Shro

rear (NW) elevation on the wing. facing SE

4 of 4

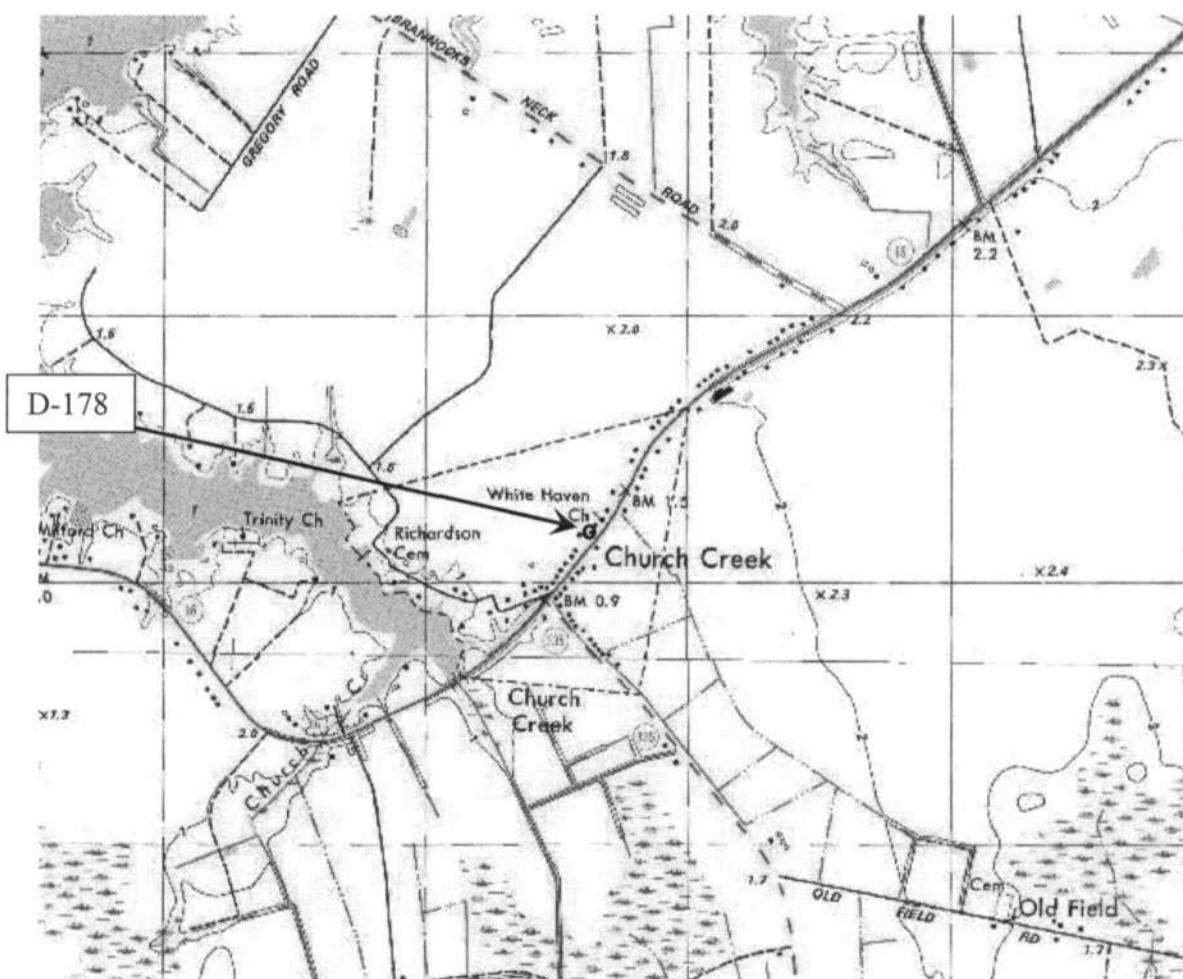
D-178
Stick and Ball House
Church Creek
Private

Late 19th Century

One of the most decorative and whimsical of the houses in Church Creek, this building is itself relatively plain, but the large wrap-around porch possesses a very elaborately executed stick-and-ball covering, hence the common name for the house. Very few houses elsewhere in the county can boast such trim, although similar work can be found in St. Michaels, Talbot County.

See also: Church Creek, Vol. IV

D-178
Stick and Ball House
Church Creek Rd.
Church Creek
Church Creek Quad.
Dorchester Co.



13x1-99

55%

~~50%~~

D-178



D-178

Stick & Ball House